

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 167**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Ma**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Brownley, Hall, Jeffries, and**  
**Bonnie Lowenthal)**  
**(Coauthor: Senator Huff)**

May 24, 2010

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 167—Relative to Students with Epilepsy Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 167, as introduced, Ma. Students with Epilepsy Month.

This measure would recognize September 2010 and each September thereafter as Students with Epilepsy Month. This measure would also encourage the Epilepsy Foundations of California to continue to join with the educational and health communities to conduct epilepsy education, awareness, and treatment.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, Epilepsy is a chronic health condition that affects  
2 over 3 million Americans. More Americans are affected by epilepsy  
3 than by cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, and  
4 Parkinson’s disease combined; and  
5 WHEREAS, An estimated \$15.5 billion in annual medical costs  
6 in the United States result from epilepsy; and  
7 WHEREAS, Epilepsy affects approximately 400,000  
8 Californians, 90,000 of whom are children under 18 years of age;  
9 and

1 WHEREAS, While epilepsy can begin at any age, it most  
2 commonly occurs in children and the elderly; and

3 WHEREAS, Epilepsy affects individuals with varying severity,  
4 ranging from a very limited effect on the individual to devastating  
5 impacts on all aspects of life. Epilepsy is truly disabling for those  
6 living with uncontrolled seizures, due to frequent seizures,  
7 impairments to cognition, memory, and functional skills, and a  
8 highly compromised quality of life; and

9 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and treatment of epilepsy is critical  
10 to both maximizing long-term prognosis and saving lives by  
11 recognizing and appropriately responding to seizure emergencies;  
12 and

13 WHEREAS, A seizure can take many forms and is caused by  
14 a brief change in the normal functioning of the brain's electrical  
15 system. While seizures are most often associated with convulsions,  
16 in fact, a seizure can also be as subtle as strange sensations or  
17 perceptions, altered awareness, brief staring episodes, abnormal  
18 motions or postures, stiffness, or confused speech; and

19 WHEREAS, Epilepsy is the second leading cause of death and  
20 disability in children under 14 years of age, and up to 50,000 deaths  
21 occur annually in the United States from prolonged seizures, known  
22 as status epilepticus, and other seizure-related causes; and

23 WHEREAS, In children with epilepsy uncontrolled seizures  
24 damage the child's developing brain and can impact academic  
25 performance, memory, learning, and result in social-emotional  
26 challenges; and

27 WHEREAS, Students with epilepsy have the ability to achieve  
28 their educational goals with access to effective and appropriate  
29 school and medical support services. Further, access to interagency  
30 support systems strengthens the quality of life for children with  
31 epilepsy; and

32 WHEREAS, Recognizing Students with Epilepsy Month will  
33 bring attention to this severe and often underreported and  
34 underrecognized condition. Students with Epilepsy Month will  
35 help address and dispel misperceptions associated with epilepsy  
36 and positively demonstrate the ability of children to succeed in  
37 spite of their seizures; and

38 WHEREAS, Students with Epilepsy Month will provide an  
39 opportunity for the school community to become better educated

1 and empowered to best meet the needs of students with epilepsy;  
2 now, therefore, be it

3 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
4 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature recognizes September  
5 2010 and each September thereafter as Students with Epilepsy  
6 Month; and be it further

7 *Resolved*, That the Epilepsy Foundations of California are  
8 encouraged to continue to join with the educational and health  
9 communities to conduct epilepsy education, awareness, and  
10 treatment; and be it further

11 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
12 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.